



DJJ Partnership

[**Current Issue**](#)[**Archived Issues**](#)[**DJJ Homepage**](#)**Inside this issue:**[**Guidelines revised**](#)[**Going green**](#)[**Filmmaking program
recognized**](#)[**Ward says so long**](#)[**Local collaboration
honored**](#)[**Fewer accidents**](#)[**Casey leadership
program**](#)[**DJJ veteran passes**](#)[**Human Resource
updates**](#)[**40 years of service**](#)[**DJJ happenings**](#)[**Western CSUs link**](#)[**First Lady visits DJJ**](#)[**Training notes**](#)[**Keep us informed**](#)

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Director's comments

Yes, once again I'm writing for our newsletter and once again we're being told to prepare for more budget cuts. We're all antsy and are waiting to find out how rough it will be; we probably will not hear until two months of revenue are collected in this fiscal year – my guess is it will be well into September. In the meantime, we'll deal as best we can with the restrictions on filling positions and holding travel, purchasing, contracts, etc. to what is



Barry Green

absolutely critical. That said, I can't help but remain confident that we're continuing to do the right thing and are getting better at it as we move along.

I recently attended one day of a national conference of juvenile and family judges held in Norfolk and saw many Virginia judges. My intent was to be a good neighbor and to say hello to as many as I could, but as it turns out most of them found me first. Almost every one told me they wanted me to know how they felt about their interactions with DJJ and how much they appreciated the help we provide and the ways in which we help them deal with the difficult cases they have to address. This was not idle chat – they were honestly appreciative and complimentary.

We continue to see good results for the young people with whom we work and have data to support what most of us can already feel. If we can keep our heads focused, even with the dark fiscal clouds and the political whirlwinds that blow around us, then we will continue to see the successes grow.

Read the newspapers and know as much as possible about what's going on in state and local government finances, but keep it in perspective. We've faced tough times before and managed to keep on. This is just another bump in the road (or maybe a pothole, and yes maybe we'll need a tire realignment when all is said and done but the vehicle is still running and gets good gas mileage – more than I can say for the other cars on the road).

Have a good summer and appreciate yourselves for what you've been doing. I know I do.

Barry Green

DJJ Director

